

(b) The setting up of LPG distributorships is a continuous process and involves identifying a suitable location, arranging land for setting up of godown and other statutory clearances. In view of this, it is not possible to indicate any specific time frame for setting up of new LPG distributorships.

Marketing of ethanol blended petrol

1442. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that ethanol mixed petrol is planned to be marketed by oil companies in selected cities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including ratio of mixture, retail price, effect on environment etc; and
- (c) whether ethanol is available in sufficient quantity in the country and the annual saving of foreign exchange anticipated by this process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHAJ. PATEL): (a) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas vide Gazette Notification No. G.S.R. 580(E) dated 20.9.2006 has directed that subject to commercial viability, oil marketing companies shall sell 5 percent ethanol blended petrol, as per Bureau of Indian Standards specification, in the notified 20 States and 4 Union Territories, comprising of the entire country except North Eastern States, J & K, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep *w.e.f.* 1.11.2006.

(b) Oil Marketing Companies are procuring ethanol from indigenous producers through open tenders with validity for three years extendable by two more years which are under finalisation. The retail prices of 5% ethanol blended petrol and petrol are the same. When the ethanol blended petrol used in the vehicles, as compared to the use of petrol, there was reduction of carbon monoxide (CO) & hydrocarbons and slight increase in nitrous oxide amounting to overall reduction of Green House Gases (GHGs).

(c) The requirement of ethanol for implementation of 5% Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme through out the country is approx. 0.56 million/KL per annum. The Oil Marketing Companies are in the process of finalising the tenders for supply of ethanol. India does not import petrol. There is, therefore

[5 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

no direct implication of foreign exchange being saved by mixing ethanol in Petrol.

There is, however, the indirect consequence of conserving foreign exchange on importing the crude oil required for refining that quantity of petrol.

Availability of natural gas

1443. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND-NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of natural gas in the reserves of each State and Union Territory of the country;

(b) the quantity lifted everyday in each State and Union Territory;

(c) whether there are reserves of natural gases where utilization is less than possible;

(d) the programmes contemplated for this; and

(e) the quantity of gases being outsourced at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) State-wise natural gas reserves in the country are as under:—

State/Regions	Gas reserves*
Andhra Pradesh	41.464
Arunachal Pradesh	2.370
Assam	141.987
Gujarat	80.694
Nagaland	0.119
Rajasthan	4.246
Tamil Nadu	28.780
Tripura	27.735
East Coast	399.136
West Coast	344.290

* Billion Cubic Metre (BCM)